PTO/SB/98a (05-03) Approved for use through 04/30/2003, OMB 0651-0031 U.S. Petent and Trademark Office; U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of Information unless it contains a valid OMB control number. Complete if Known Substitute for form 1449APTO **Application Number** 10/63/220 Filing Date 7/30/03 INFORMATION DISCLOSURE First Named Inventor STATEMENT BY APPLICANT Richard T. Howard Art Unit 2883 Tî Examiner Name Ryan Lepisto (Use as many sheets as necessary) Attorney Docket Number MFS-31843-1 Sheet at U. S. PATENT DOCUMENTS Cite No. Publication Date Name of Patentee or Pages, Columns, Lines, Whi Evaminar **Document Number** Applicant of Cited Document ant Passages or Ref Initials' MALDO-YYYY Number-Kind Code^{2 (* tot} Figures Appear 06/06/2000 Guenther et al. 6,072,631 6,294,665 6,394,66 05/28/2002 Hayashi 11/06/2001 6.313,948 Hanna ŝ 6,157,756 12/05/2000 Ishiwata L S 08 8 S 6.025.938 02/15/2000 Kathman et al. 5,859,945 01/12/1999 Kato et al. 144 to 15 to 09/15/1992 Foresi 5,148,317 õ Morrison 05/12/1992 ogge (5,113,286 U on the date 5,581,683 12/03/1996 Bertignoll et al. 03/29/1988 Lia et al. 4,733,937 ΠŒ 450. US-UŞ-223 US-Þ US. Alexandra. Date ÜS. FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS Name of Patentee or Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevent Passages or Relevant Figures Appear Examine Foreign Patent Document **Publication Date** MM-DD-YYYY Applicant of Cited Document Country Code 3-Number 4-Kind Code 5(# Innove) EK828580324US

90/2/06

Examiner
Signature

EXAMINER: Initial if retering considered whether or not obtain is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw the through obtain if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant. Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). 2 See Kinds Codes of USPTO Patent Occurrents at www.useto.com, or MPEP 901.04. 3 Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). 4 For. Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. § Kind of document the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST, 16 If possible. § Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is ettached.

Date Considered

4/3/06

Ha11

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.97 and 1.98. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to fite (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 2 hours to complete, including gethering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the inclinidate case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form endors suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commence, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

If you need assistance in completing the form, call 1-800-PTO-9199 and select option 2.